Slide Online

Digital Photography:

Tips & Tricks for Compact Cameras

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Larry Works
info@A2Works.com

© 2012 A2Works Photography - Some Rights Reserved

Workshop Format

Theory & Knowledge

- Blah, Blah, Blah…
- Questions? Please wait until the end of the session.
- Workshop content is photography classes taught in Ann Arbor and Chelsea. But IF you see this note, that slide will be posted on the Stewardship conference website.

Slide Online

Take it With You Everywhere!

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

…share!

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Content

- Photo Technologies
  - Compact Camera Defined
  - Image Quality
  - Features & Terms
    - Controls, LCD & Menus
    - Viewfinder & Live View
    - Shutter Speed
    - Aperture (F-stop)
    - ISO
    - White Balance
    - Histogram
    - Mode Controls
- Effective Techniques
  - Stability
  - Movement Compensation
  - Composition Methods
    - Simplify
    - Avoiding Mergers
    - Framing/Cropping
    - Balance
    - Viewing Angle
    - Rule of Thirds
  - Lighting
    - Natural

Slide Online

What To Remember

- Dust is your enemy. Use a case and keep it clean.
- Take your camera with you everywhere.
- Have a spare battery (charged) and memory card.
- Hold your camera steady.
- Practice Effective Techniques that ***YOU*** like.
- Control The Camera Imaging (use automatic modes)
- Save & organize pictures as soon as possible.
- Edit Image Information (post-processing).
- Backup your photos regularly (TRUST ME!).
- Share pictures with family and friends.
- Teach someone else what you know.
- Continue to learn about the art of photography

HAVE LOTS OF FUN !!!!!

Slide Online

What You Need

Within easy reach.

- Camera
- Microfiber dust cloth
- Memory Card
- Charged Battery
- User Manual (yes, at least in your car)
- "Can Do" Attitude

Things to have but don't need in the field

- Battery Charger
- Camera Cables
- Software

WARNING!
Do Not Remove Batteries or Memory Cards when the camera is ON. Turn it OFF first! **Always!!**

Measuring Sensor Size

- Manufacturers list 2 pieces of sensor data
  - Megapixels (MP) - Total number of pixels
  - Physical Size of the sensor (shown 1 of 2 ways)
    - Ratio in Inches (ie. 1/1.8”)
    - Size in millimeters (ie. 7.18mm x 5.32m)

(not to scale)

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

- Want to know your camera sensor size?
  - Find it’s diagonal measurement www.sensor-size.com
  - The larger the number, the higher quality image you can expect.

Slide Online

Menu Systems

- You CANNOT break a camera using the menus
- BUT, There are 2 menu choices to be careful using
  - Format (sometimes called Erase)
  - Reset (sometimes called Default Settings)

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Format ***ERASES*** all images.

Reset puts camera settings back to what they were set at the factory.

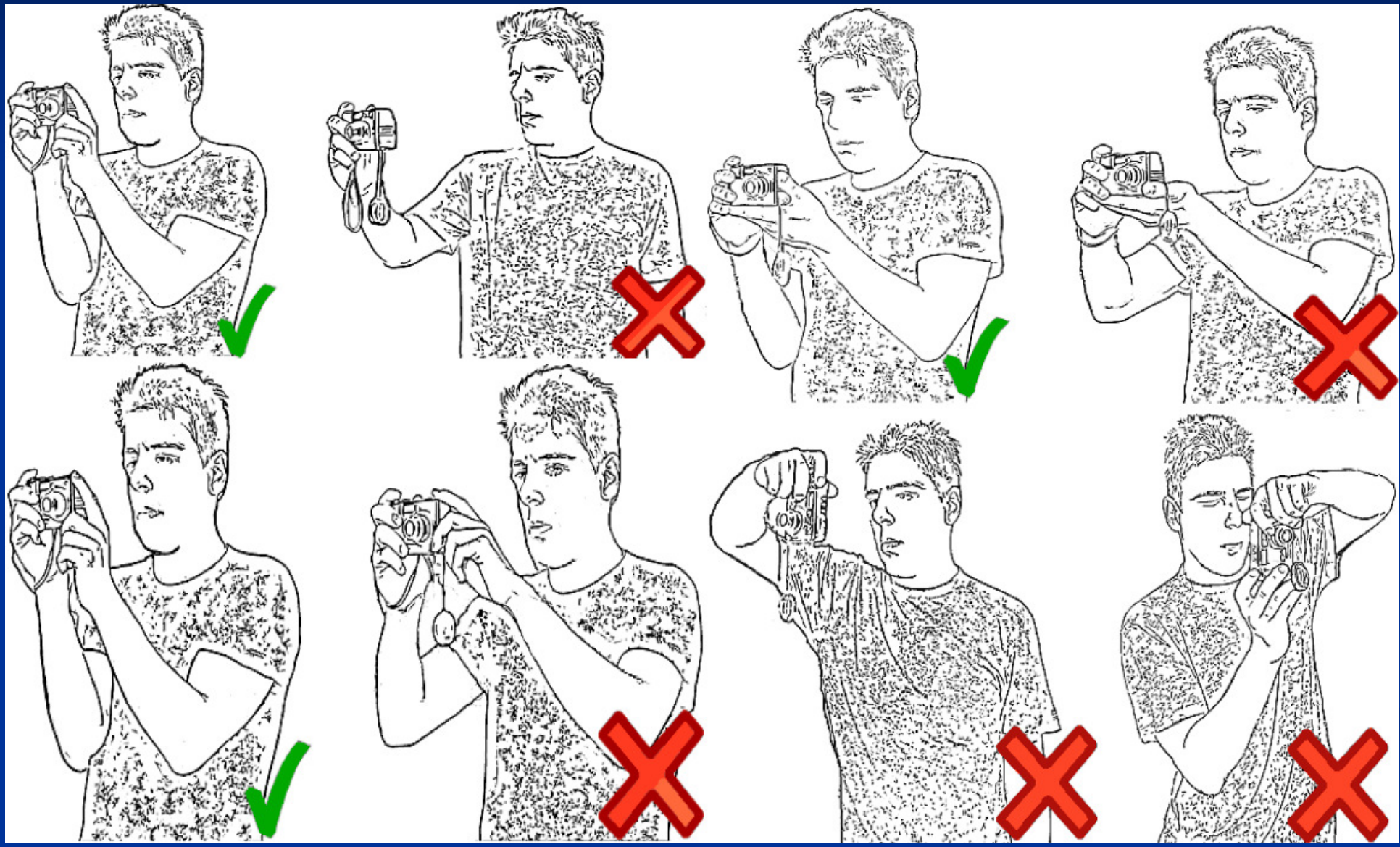
Effective Techniques

- Stability
- Movement Compensation
- Composition Methods
  - Simplify
  - Avoiding Mergers
  - Framing/Cropping
  - Balance
  - Viewing Angle
  - Rule of Thirds

FYI: Doing these things <u>will</u> improve your photos immediately. Be ready, because it will be noticed!

Slide Online

Stability is Key



Slide Online

Tripod Tricks

- Find your composition first

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

- Spread the legs out
- Point 1 leg toward the subject
- Keep center post vertical and perpendicular
- Avoid extending center post upwards
- Use Self-Timer
- Hang a weight (handbag) for added stability

Quick Tip: One with quick-release legs ***may*** help you get the shot before the composition changes.

Look Before You Shoot

By asking yourself a few simple questions…

What Is The Center of Interest?

People? Then Get Closer. Especially for portraits.

Landscape? Then take time to compose and steady things.

Is the background cluttered or too distracting?

Move your position slightly to simplify and avoid busy patterns, bright objects, any other distracting elements.

Is this the best angle to take this image?

If you have an LCD on a swivel, try different angles.

Should I use the Rule of Thirds?

Is there an opportunity to frame the image?

Will the image be balanced?

Slide Online

Exposure Factors

How Factors Are Related

Noise

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Slide Online

Scene Modes

Backlight - eliminates dark shadows when light is coming from behind a subject.

Beach/Snow - photograph beach, snow and sunlit water scenes. Exposure set to help prevent overexposure.

Fireworks - pre-focus & use a tripod.

Landscape - Camera automatically focuses far away.

Macro - takes close-up shots of small objects.

Scene Modes

Night Portrait - The built-in flash and red-eye reduction are enabled; shutter-speeds low. Use tripod.

Night Scene - Programmed to use slow shutter speeds so use a tripod.

Party - dimly lit indoor; exposure and shutter speed are automatically adjusted for room brightness.

Portrait - subject clearly focused and background out of focus (has less depth of field). Stand close to subject.

Scene Modes

Sports (also called Kids & Pets)- take photos of a fast moving subject; fast shutter speeds "freeze" the action. Best taken in bright light; pre-focusing recommended.

FYI: Most compact cameras do NOT allow you full control of shutter speed. So this mode is how you freeze the action.

Sunset - take photos of sunsets and sunrises; helps keep the deep hues in the scene. Use a tripod.

Tonal Distribution

- White Balance allows you to ***properly*** capture the color cast of light on your subject.
- Tonal Range - degree to which sensors see light and dark
- Histogram - graphic display of ***ALL tones*** in an image.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Slide Online

Metering Modes

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Center-Weighted Average - Most common method used because that's how most people point and shoot so the exposure level is weighted higher at the center (60-80%).

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Evaluative (Matrix) - most complex but offers the best exposure in most circumstances. Essentially, the scene is split up into zones which are evaluated individually.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Spot - small area (1-5%) is metered and the rest of the image is ignored completely. Most advanced technique.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Partial Spot - similar to spot but a larger area (10-15% is metered. Spot Hi (highlights), Spot SH (shadows), Spot AF (Auto-Focus Area) are all partial metering modes.

Dust Prevention

How to Keep Dust Out

- Keep your camera off when not using it.
- Keep your camera in a camera case or camera bag.
- Clean the case (or bag) regularly.
- Use a microfiber lens cloth to keep your lens and viewfinder clean.
- Carry a lens cloth with you.
- Unless you are there on purpose, DO NOT shoot in very dusty places (ie. riding on a tractor during harvest, demolition)
- Use a lens cap (if appropriate) when not using your camera.
- Change lenses (if appropriate) in a non-windy, non-dusty place.
- Make sure the outside of the camera and lens is completely clean before putting it away.
- Keep your hands clean.

Slide Online

What Should I Do?

If you don't notice the dust and you're not shooting professionally it's probably no big deal. Ignore it.

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Be aware that for Canon, Nikon, Pentax or Sigma cameras, touching the sensor filter in any way automatically voids your warranty.

Before doing anything yourself about the dust inside a camera, read the manual, re-read it, and think very hard about everything that could possibly go wrong.

Slide Online

Image Management

- *There is no silver bullet.* But you should organize pictures the way it makes sense to you. If only to find them again.
  - By Date, or Event, or Subject, or Geography, etc.
- Simplify - always keep things simple.
- If a picture is BAD, get rid of it ASAP!!!!
- Use descriptive filenames and folders
- Do things in batches (saves time).
  - If your software allows you to add information during the import process, do it.
  - If you can batch rename files, do it.
- Use keywords and tags (WARNING: Black Hole Ahead)

Warning: If you're disorganized in other things, this is going to be hard too .

Reference Materials

Public Libraries
University Libraries

is your friend

Product Reviews

- www.dpreview.com
- www.digicamhelp.com
- www.photo.net
- www.kenrockwell.com

OTHER PHOTOGRAPHERS

Did you know there are over 500 *professional* photographers in Washtenaw County? If you see us out and about, do say hello*. Most will gladly answer questions.

* Please don't interrupt a shoot. *

Warning: These are things I am aware of and sometimes use to further my knowledge and skills in the art of photography. This is not an endorsement.

Reference Materials

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

QuickTime™ and a decompressor are needed to see this picture.

Photography Books:

The Digital Photography Companion by Derrick Story

Digital Photography by Michael Wright (2006 Revised Edition)

David Pogue's Digital Photography - The Missing Manual

** Older photography books (ie. film) have great technique information

Warning: These are things I am aware of and sometimes use to further my knowledge and skills in the art of photography. This is not an endorsement.

Slide Online

Thank You!!!

It has been my distinct pleasure.

Please go outside, take some great pictures and share them.